

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068365

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, PLOS, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR BILATERAL MARITIME
AGREEMENT

1. THE DEPARTMENT WILL INVITE AMBASSADOR YANKOV TO COME
IN ON MARCH 16 OR 17 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF BULGARIA'S
REQUEST FOR A BILATERAL MARITIME AGREEMENT. IT WOULD BE
POSSIBLE TO SEEK CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY NOW TO NEGOTIATE
A LIMITED AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN
SHIPPING DOCUMENTS, AND FOR ASSISTANCE TO VESSELS IN
DISTRESS, BUT WE BELIEVE SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE ALMOST
MEANINGLESS. WE PREFER TO SUGGEST TO YANKOV THAT MORE
SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON A REDUCTION IN PORT ACCESS
REQUIREMENTS ARE STILL UNDER STUDY, AND THAT WE WOULD NOT
BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON THIS MATTER UNTIL JUNE.

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2. WE PLAN TO TELL YANKOV THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING A
REDUCTION IN PORT ACCESS REQUIREMENTS FOR BULGARIAN
VESSELS FROM THE CURRENT FOURTEEN-DAY REQUEST TO SEVEN-DAY
REQUEST. US NEGOTIATING POLICY AND NSDM340 REQUIRE SOME
QUID PRO QUO FROM THE BULGARIANS FOR THIS CONCESSION.
SINCE US SHIPPING LINES ARE NOT ACTIVE CROSS TRADERS, WE

WILL NEED A CONCESSION FROM OUTSIDE THE MARITIME AREA.
WE WILL SUGGEST TO YANKOV THAT HE CONSULT WITH HIS

GOVERNMENT, AND BE PREPARED TO PRESENT A BULGARIAN OFFER
WHEN DISCUSSIONS RESUME IN JUNE.

3. FYI: THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE WILL BE
COMPLETED BEFORE JUNE. YANKOV IS CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE
III. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE
MAY ENCOURAGE YANKOV TO BE MORE NEUTRAL DURING THIS
SESSION THAN HE HAS BEEN IN THE PAST. END FYI.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE GIVE US YOUR SUGGESTIONS
ON APPROPRIATE CONCESSIONS WE MIGHT GET FROM THE BULGARIANS
IN EXCHANGE FOR REDUCED PORT ACCESS REQUIREMENTS. THESE
CONCESSIONS NEED NOT BE IN THE AREA OF MARITIME AFFAIRS
OR SHIPPING. VANCE

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